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No. 11

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 26, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.

House of Representatives

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2012

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CHAFFETZ).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 25, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JASON CHAFFETZ to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:
We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day.

As You make available to Your people the grace and knowledge to meet the needs of the day, we pray that Your spirit will be upon the Members of this people's House, giving them the richness of Your wisdom.

Bless the Members of the minority party as they gather these days. May they, with those who accompany them, travel safely and meet in peace.

Bless also the majority party as they return to their constituencies. Give them hearts and ears to listen well to all of those whom they represent.

May the power of Your truth and our faith in Your providence give them all the confidence they must have to do the good work required for service to our Nation.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CICILLINE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

GABBY

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my grandmother used to say that there is nothing more powerful than a woman

that has made up her mind. GABBY GIFFORDS has always been that woman. She is compassionate, tenacious, and relentless in her love for our country.

Her desire to serve and represent the people of Arizona has never wavered, and she will carry that same feisty spirit with her indefinitely.

After she was attacked and faced with what seemed to be insurmountable odds, GABBY fought each day to get better. Her recovery has been a miracle, and she will only continue to get stronger.

GABBY is the spirit of bipartisanship that we should all learn from, and I have enjoyed working with her on border security issues. She makes decisions based on what she sees to be right for her people. Although she will no longer serve in Congress for the time being, the people of Arizona have not lost an advocate.

No question about it, GABBY is a fighter, and she fights for what she believes in. She is fiercely dedicated to making her community and our country a better place because she is a woman that has made up her mind.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRESS SHOULD GET THINGS DONE FOR OUR COUNTRY

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, my constituents in Rhode Island have been hit hard by this recession. Last night, President Obama offered Congress a

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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plan to rebuild our economy with proposals focused on manufacturing, innovation, investments in infrastructure and workforce training, proposals that I and many of my colleagues have been working hard to advance.

I urge my friends on the other side of the aisle to move forward on the Off-shore Prevention Act that would end tax breaks for companies that ship American jobs overseas. We should work together to strengthen American manufacturing by passing legislation such as my Make it in America Block Grant and the rest of the Make it in America agenda. I look forward to fighting hard for commonsense proposals like these that will benefit hard-working families in my State.

Rhode Islanders want Congress to move beyond ideological differences to get things done for our country. After so much unproductive partisanship this past year, let's send the President bills like these that will advance not just the interests of Democrats or Republicans, but of every American family.

SEQUESTRATION UNDERMINES PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Constitution gives Congress the responsibility of providing for a common defense. The defense cuts that occur in 2013 as a result of sequestration undermines this constitutional duty. General Ray Odierno, the Army Chief of Staff, has stated, "Cuts of this magnitude would be catastrophic for the military."

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has said that under sequestration, "We would have to reduce the size of the military sharply. Rough estimates indicate after 10 years of these cuts, we would have the smallest ground forces since 1940, the smallest number of ships since 1915, and the smallest Air Force in our history."

With growing worldwide threats, the President last night praised our troops but actually is slashing the Army by 80,000 troops and cuts to Marines by 20,000.

I urge my colleagues to support Chairman BUD McKEON and vote in favor of the Down Payment on National Security Act. This bill provides certainty for the military to promote peace through strength.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

CONGRESS SHOULD WORK TOGETHER

(Ms. HOCHUL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, exactly 12 hours ago, those of us who sat in this

Chamber watched raw courage walk through that door when our colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, came in here of her own accord. She overcame obstacles both physical and emotional that few of us can ever imagine. In this room, we often find similar challenges. I call on this body in the spirit of GABBY GIFFORDS to put aside our differences and work together and institute the parts of the President's plan we heard last night that we all agree on.

I sat over here on the so-called Republican side of the aisle, and I know there were times when my colleagues, all of them, got up and applauded and supported the President and issues, whether it was to bring back jobs from overseas, whether it was fairness in our Tax Code, or infrastructure for our roads and bridges that are crumbling, at least in my district.

We have much before us, just as our friend GABBY did. We can overcome it. She did it. We must. The American people are counting on us.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

(Mr. WOMACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, last night in this very Chamber, I heard the President talk of an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy for our Nation. I couldn't agree more. But this is the same President who a few days ago rejected the Keystone XL pipeline project, a \$7 billion trifecta shovel-ready for America: jobs, energy security, and urgent logistical relief necessary to move oil to the gulf coast region.

Count me as one of the disappointed. At a time when we should be doing everything we can to be giving American workers a lift, instead we take to the bully pulpit and preach envy and division, simply a smokescreen for political convenience and expedience.

Mr. President, if you truly believe in an all-of-the-above strategy, if you're genuinely concerned about 8½ percent unemployment, and if you're looking for a bipartisan way to reverse this economic course we are on, say "yes" to Keystone XL.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind the Members that they are to address their remarks to the Chair.

FAIRNESS IS VITAL TO THE SURVIVAL OF OUR SOCIETY

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased last night to hear President Obama talk about the defining issue of our time, the great economic disparity that we face in this society and the need to have a fair taxation

system. Of course, what is fair is in the eye of the beholder, and the recent disclosure of Governor Mitt Romney's tax returns offers us a great laboratory to talk about that.

On \$21 million in income, he paid \$3 million in taxes. The question for us shouldn't be whether \$3 million is fair or whether a 13.9 percent rate is fair. The question is, did he deserve a preferential rate? Did that \$21 million of income educate anyone, did it create jobs, did it provide important research, did it build infrastructure? If it provided a broad societal benefit, then that preferential rate is justified. If not, then we can't explain to hard-working Americans how he pays a lower rate than they do.

Fairness is incredibly vital to the survival of our society, and we need to emphasize that always.

□ 0910

STATE OF THE UNION SPEECH

(Mr. LANKFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, today is day 1,001 since the Senate has passed a budget. In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, the President has notified this body that his budget will also be late this year. Now, that may be a couple days, it may be a week—we don't know exactly how late that's going to be at this point. And last night, at the State of the Union Address, he spent exactly 3 percent of the speech talking about debt and deficits. We have \$15.3 trillion worth of debt right now in our Nation. It is a major issue for us. It slows down our economy.

I was very pleased to hear him talk about an all-of-the-above energy strategy though, and I'm very focused on that exact same thing. But I did have a couple things that need to be cleared up. He mentioned basically that hydraulic fracking and the process of recovering shale gas was a Federal project and a Federal invention. Well, I'd like to inform everyone that since 1949, we have done that in Oklahoma. And the chemicals that he mentioned, we need to get out there and stop concealing them. If you go to fracfocus.org, Mr. Speaker, you will already find all those hydraulic chemicals out there. So we need to clear those things up.

MOVE AMERICA FORWARD

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, last night was the State of the Union, but it was also the State of the American family, for family values were much on display like I have never seen before in this room. We had the President of the United States and his beautiful wife, Michelle, who have a beautiful family